

ELIGIBLE CLIENTS

Michigan's Child Protection Law states that an individual up to eighteen years of age is eligible for Children's Protective Services (CPS). Complaints can neither be rejected (not investigated), nor dispositioned based solely on factors such as age or behavioral problems (e.g., incorrigibility or legal status such as delinquency). The criteria for both assignment and disposition of complaints are:

- Harm or threatened harm.
- To a child's health or welfare.
- By a parent, legal guardian, or any other person responsible for the child's health or welfare.
- That occurs through nonaccidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, maltreatment, negligent treatment, or failure to protect.

Department of Human Services (DHS), or community-based service providers, are to provide services to all children under eighteen years of age whenever any of the following conditions exist:

- All cases determined to be Category III, II or I by CPS.
- A child is petitioned into the Family Division of Circuit Court and the court requests supervision by the department in the child's home.

Note: Court wards placed in their own homes are served by the CPS program. In contrast, court wards placed outside their own homes are the responsibility of the foster care program.